

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A hearing aid, comprising:

a receiver positioned within the ear canal of a user, the receiver generating no more than about three decibels of insertion loss over human ear audible frequencies.
2. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the receiver generates no more than about two decibels of insertion loss over human ear audible frequencies.
3. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim 2, wherein the receiver generates no more than about one decibel of insertion loss over human ear audible frequencies.
4. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the receiver generates no more than about three decibels of insertion loss over audible frequencies between about 2200 Hertz and about 5300 Hertz.
5. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 4, wherein the receiver generates no more than about three decibels of insertion loss over audible frequencies between about 3000 Hertz and about 5000 Hertz.

6. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 5, wherein the receiver generates no more than about three decibels of insertion loss over audible frequencies between about 3500 Hertz and about 4500 Hertz.
7. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the receiver is positioned within the bony and/or cartilaginous region of the ear canal of the user.
8. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the receiver has a maximum lateral dimension that is less than half the maximum lateral dimension of a user's ear canal.
9. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 8, wherein the receiver has a maximum lateral dimension that is less than thirty percent of the maximum lateral dimension of a user's ear canal.
10. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 9, wherein the receiver has a maximum lateral dimension that is less than twenty percent of the maximum lateral dimension of a user's ear canal.
11. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 10, wherein the receiver has a maximum lateral dimension that is less than ten percent of the maximum lateral

dimension of a user's ear canal.

12. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 11, wherein the receiver has a maximum lateral dimension that is less than five percent of the maximum lateral dimension of a user's ear canal.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 1, further comprising a sound processing unit; and an intermediate connecting portion, wherein a retaining wire extends from at least one of the intermediate connecting portion and the receiver, and

further wherein the retaining wire is configured to engage at least a portion of the concha of a user's ear.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim 19 ~~or 20~~, wherein the retaining wire is configured such that the ~~hearing aid~~ receiver has a maximum insertion depth into an ear canal.

22. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim 19 ~~or 20~~, wherein the retaining wire is configured such that the ~~hearing aid~~ receiver does not substantially contact any portion of an ear canal when inserted within the ear canal.

23. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim ~~1~~ 19, ~~further comprising a sound processing unit; and an intermediate connecting portion including at least two electrical conducting components provided within the intermediate connecting portion wherein the retaining wire stabilizes the receiver in the ear canal.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim ~~23~~ 19, wherein the ~~at least two electrical conducting components are provided within at least two channels at least partially isolated from one another~~ retaining wire prevents any movement of the

receiver in the ear canal.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the receiver comprises a speaker, at least partially enclosed within a casing having first and second end portions, the first end portion communicating with an intermediate connecting portion, the speaker communicating with a port provided at the second end portion of the casing.

27. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim 26, wherein the port is at least partially sealed to ~~fluids~~ debris by a membrane or mesh material.

28. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim 27, wherein the casing is sealed to ~~fluids~~ debris at the first end portion and along a length of the casing extending from the first end portion to the port.

29. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 26, wherein the port includes a removable cerumen collector.

30. (Currently Amended) A hearing aid, comprising:

a receiver, configured to be positioned within the bony and/or cartilaginous region of a user's ear canal, the receiver dimensioned so as to minimize insertion loss upon positioning of the receiver within the bony and/or cartilaginous region.

31. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid according to claim 30, wherein the receiver generates no more than about three decibels of insertion loss over human ear audible frequencies between about 2200 Hertz and about 5300 Hertz.

32. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 30, wherein the receiver has a maximum lateral dimension that is less than twenty percent of the maximum lateral dimension of a user's ear canal.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 30, further comprising a sound processing unit; and an intermediate connecting portion including at least two electrical conducting components provided within the intermediate connecting portion, wherein the at least two electrical conducting components are provided within at least two channels at least partially isolated from one another.

36. (Original) A hearing aid, comprising:

a receiver, configured to be positioned within a user's ear canal, the receiver having a maximum lateral dimension that is less than thirty percent of the maximum lateral dimension of a user's ear canal.

37. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 36, wherein the receiver has a

maximum lateral dimension that is less than twenty percent of the maximum lateral dimension of a user's ear canal.

38. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 36, wherein the receiver has a

maximum lateral dimension that is less than ten percent of the maximum lateral dimension of a user's ear canal.

39. (Original) A hearing aid, comprising: a receiver;

a sound processing unit; and

an intermediate connecting portion, wherein a retaining wire extends from at least one of the intermediate connecting portion and the receiver, and further wherein the retaining wire is configured to engage at least a portion of the concha of a user's ear.

40. (Original) A hearing aid, comprising:

a receiver;

a sound processing unit; and

an intermediate connecting portion, wherein the intermediate connecting portion comprises an electrical conducting component and a stiffening wire, provided on at least a portion of the intermediate connecting portion.

41. (Original) A hearing aid, comprising:

a receiver;

a sound processing unit; and

an intermediate connecting portion, including at least two electrical conducting components provided within the intermediate connecting portion, wherein the at least two electrical conducting components are provided within at least two channels at least partially isolated from one another.